

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY

**Question No. 119**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:**

**Senator BRANDIS:** How many AFP officers are allocated to you?

**Mr Moss:** It is not a question of them being allocated to ACLEI. We are engaged in a joint investigation in relation to Customs and Border Protection. Whereas ACLEI's focus is on the officials, the AFP focus is on the criminals and—

**Senator BRANDIS:** Perhaps I will pursue that with the other agencies. All that you are saying is that where there is a multi-agency investigation then obviously officers for other agencies are involved, but that is not a comment on the deployment of your agencies' resources, is it?

**Mr Moss:** Indeed this investigation is being conducted under the framework of the Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act, and in that sense it is the Integrity Commissioner's investigation. These staff are made available to me on request. They are, in some cases, authorised as ACLEI officers.

**Senator BRANDIS:** How many of them have been authorised as ACLEI officers?

**Mr Moss:** That is a question that I will need to give you on notice, Senator.

...

**Senator BRANDIS:** All right. Will you take those questions on notice. I want a breakdown of all the officers from other agencies working within the ACLEI framework, as you describe it, on this project at the moment, as of today, and whether they are full time or part time and for what period they have been deployed to ACLEI as of today.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Section 140 of the *Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006* (the LEIC Act) enables the Integrity Commissioner to authorise an officer to exercise certain powers in his or her own right under Part 9 of the LEIC Act. In exercising these powers, an authorised officer must comply with any direction given by the Integrity Commissioner.

The number of persons authorised at any one time fluctuates depending on the disposition of issues under investigation, and how many joint investigations or taskforce operations are in progress. The duration of an authorisation may vary between a few weeks and two years, depending on operational needs.

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) Operation Heritage (also known as Australian Federal Police (AFP) Operation Marca) forms part of Taskforce Natio. The Taskforce is coordinated by ACLEI and involves the AFP and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS). At 30 May 2013, there were 37 officers of other agencies authorised under section 140 of the LEIC Act for the purposes of Taskforce Natio.

Source agency	Persons authorised for the purposes of Operation Natio
AFP	28
ACC	2
ACBPS	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>

These 37 officers work from time to time on joint investigations linked to Taskforce Natio, as operational demands require, and then return to other duties in their home agencies. On 30 May 2013, 20 authorised officers were working on Taskforce Natio matters.